

western cape scouter



September 2021



contents

Contents.....	2	Adventurous Springbok Hike	18
Sad News	2	Ship Quartermaster Course.....	20
RC's Reflections	3	Turning the Tide on Plastic.....	21
Editor's Desk	3	1st Muizenberg Meerkats	22
Boatswain Badge Course.....	4	1st Claremont Meerkats.....	24
Rovers Donate Equipment.....	5	Service to Diep River.....	26
Scout Wood Badge	6	Gordon Shield	28
Bless-a-Baby Charity	8	Conservation at Hawequas.....	32
Springbok Scouts - BP Award	9	Scouts Brave the Cold	34
Air Planner and Air Navigator	9	Orienteering Competition.....	35
Hawequas News	10	Hannelore Hauser Bequest.....	36
Cub Pow Wow	12	Priceless Items in the Museum	38
Scouting in Schools.....	14	Pricey Old Book in the Museum ...	39
Rover AGM.....	16	Pennant Flown on BP's Car?	40
Shanet's Activities.....	17	Regional Contact List.....	40

sad news



It is with much sadness that we learnt that Mauro Saporetti, who was the previous editor of the Western Cape Scouter, passed away in July after a long illness. His contribution to 2nd Bergvliet and the revival of this publication is much appreciated by all. Our condolences to Mauro's wife Debby, Springbok Scout



Fabio and extended family.

We were equally saddened by the sudden passing of Peter Niddrie in August 2021. Peter was the DC for the Liesbeek District, the leader of First Aid training team in the Region and well known to Scouts throughout the country from his assistance at the Senior Scout Adventure to South African World Jamboree participants. Our condolences to Peter's wife Lynda, Troy, Kyle and extended family.

Our thoughts and condolences go to all those who have lost loved ones, Scouters, Committee members and parents over the past months. Ed.

regional commissioner's reflections



This edition of WCS is sure to give readers a roller coaster of emotions around their Scouting Journey. COVID continues to impact directly and heavily on all we do. We reflect with much sadness and fond memories, on the lives and contributions of our friends, fellow Scouters and family members who have 'gone home' over the past months.

Our scouting has adapted greatly over the various levels of Lockdown and the 'waves' of infections. All credit to the Regional Support

Teams who have continued to safely and carefully provide Scouting activities, hikes outings and courses. A scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties! Thanks all.

Our numbers have been affected by loss of scouters and difficulties in holding regular meetings. Some groups may be forced to close, and our finances and budgeted income has been well below expectations as a result. However we have managed to maintain our campsites and seek cost savings and alternative income to a degree. Excitingly we are opening 4 new Groups in the metro and beyond, Riversonderend being our newest and building on our vision to have a group in every town. Scouting in Schools has grown to 52 schools with over 1000 cubs about to experience their first ever Cub Fun day, and 1200 Scouts their first ever Scout hike. This is a mammoth task for Ahmad and his tiny team and anyone who can assist on weekends in October is welcome to contact the office.

We are moving forward as regulations allow and October will be our traditional 'Purple awareness' month with the Paint the Lion/Peaks with Thursday evening hikes, further courses and the completion of Wood Badges, competitions and events.

These are challenging, but exciting and innovative times. Enjoy this edition's stories and remember to submit your action stories for the next edition.

Stay Safe, Vaccinate

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

editor's desk



Peter Otzen, Laura Troost and Kyle Corbett have been accepted into the MCSA Search and Rescue team as Search and Rescue Mountaineers. We congratulate Peter, Laura and Kyle for successfully undergoing their training and putting Scouting on the map.

A reminder that your Den, Pack, Troop and Crew news articles are welcome. Email articles to the editor and attach action photos.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter

boatswain badge course



Finally, the course happened, after no course last year. We had 18 Scouts on the course from Troops all over the Region.

Scouts learnt about different paints and surface preparation and put these into practice by varnishing some wood work around the Sea Scout Base. Scouts also learnt stitching skills and did canvas work with amazing results.

One part of the course is learning how to pipe using a Boatswain's Call (not a whistle) and for some this was a new experience but some took to it "like a duck to water". Hand tools, power tools and their operation, basic fibre-glassing and boat maintenance were all covered in their use.

The challenging lanyard was started on the first weekend and by the end of the second weekend most Scouts had completed it. It was a fantastic course and everyone had a good time and good memories were created.

Big thank you to Craig Burchell-Burger for instructing as well as Jezi O'Hagan and Matthew Bosch for being the lanyard experts. A huge mention to Stef and Julie of the Sea Scout Base for catering (so many were happy to get base food again!)

Robert Schmid - Support Team Member Scouts - Water Activities



rovers donate equipment

The 1st Durbanville Rovers recently donated some of the Group's old equipment to the 1st Darling troop.

The 1st Darling Scout Group does not have a Scout Hall or much equipment and this motivated 1st Durbanville Rover Charles Murphy to organize this initiative together with his fellow Rovers.

This involved setting aside time to clean one of their old troop tents which was still in great condition. They also repainted an equipment patrol box and a gas canister in the 1st Darling colours, and gathered a complete set of kitchen equipment as well as a two plate gas stove with which to fill the patrol box.

On Saturday, 21 August the 1st Durbanville Rovers joined the 1st Darling scouts and cubs for a combined troop/cub meeting and handed over the equipment which will go a long way towards enabling 1st Darling to go camping and to compete at Regional competitions.



Upon their arrival, the Rovers helped the 1st Darling scouts to pitch their new tent and also shared their knowledge of maintaining a tent and other scouting equipment with the 1st Darling scouts.

The 1st Darling scout group was delighted to receive this equipment and the 1st Durbanville Rovers extended an offer of future help to the 1st Darling scouts in the hope that this can be the start of a great friendship between the two Scout Groups.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member

scout wood badge



The Scout Wood Badge course was recently run over several weekends between July and August, with a number of Wednesday evening online sessions, an expedition, and a camping weekend at Hawequas. The online courses covered a variety of Scout theory, but also some guest presentations from a few interesting external speakers, such as the International Director of Toastmasters SA,

Aletta Rochat, who gave a presentation on public speaking, and Brian Aslett, an ex-SAB director who gave insights into managing personality types. These skills were put to good use, especially with each person presenting a 15-minute AV presentation on an unusual topic.

For the expedition, the participants designed and implemented a brilliant three-day tour of the South Peninsula: enjoying a short early-morning ramble through some of the peaks in the area, experiencing rustic local farm hospitality, and supplementing their catering supplies with lots of edible marine food bravely foraged from the coastline (naturally with all the official permits in place). A fleet of bicycles was procured to enable the participants to cycle from Cape Point to Kommetjie, and the SANParks accommodation at Slangkop tented campsite was given rave reviews, as was the cordon bleu backwoods dinner. The expedition ended with a litter-cleaning walk along Long Beach in Noordhoek, and a catered lunch at the 4th Claremont hall with the other participants of the Cub and SGL/Commissioner Wood Badges. It was a privilege to be able to spend this time with the participants, who never ceased to rise to the challenge of the Wood Badge standard, and whose thoughtful, genuine, and sincere participation brought us together. Hopefully many great legacy projects come out of this experience, and the Training Team is looking forward to seeing the skills and training ploughed back into the Region's Troops.

Peter Otzen - RTC Adult Leader Training



scout wood badge



bless a baby charity

1st Durbanville cub, Grace Botha (age 10), has always had a heart for babies. She recently transformed this passion into a donation campaign whereby vulnerable babies in the community became the delighted recipients of soft toys and other supplies. In trying to decide on a focus for her Leaping Wolf Badge, Grace's passion for babies led her to think of ways in which she could come alongside vulnerable babies in the community.



Grace researched a few baby charities and decided upon the "Bless a Baby" charity. She started collecting supplies, toiletries and baby clothing and also rallied her cub pack to join the initiative.

The response was overwhelming. Once all the items were gathered and packed, Grace arrived at "Bless a Baby" with her donations and stayed to help with the sorting and packing. In the process, she learned a great deal about the different bags that "Bless a Baby" donate to new moms in need.

In the meantime, donations continued to stream in from the 1st Durbanville cubs and also from the newly formed Meerkat den at 1st Durbanville. As a result, Grace was able to donate and volunteer her help once again. "Bless a Baby" has a special place in Grace's heart as she fondly remembers that when she first met her best buddy, her baby brother, he arrived from Tygerberg Hospital with a beautiful handmade "Bless a Baby" blanket of his very own.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member

(Ed. The Grace family all live in the same household and hence no masks)



springbok scouts - bp award

We congratulate our latest
Springbok Scouts who are:

Caitlin Putterill	1st Gordons Bay
Daniel Basson	2nd Somerset West
Graham Schmidt	2nd Bergvliet
Vincent Savary	9th/16th Cape Town
Vivienne Banks	6th Rondebosch

We congratulate Shanet Rutgers of the Table
Bay Rovers for earning the Rover BP Award



air planner and air navigator

It was great to see the number of Scouts who applied to attend these two courses and in fact second Scoutcraft Air Planner and Interest Air Navigator badge courses had to be run to cater for the need.

Scouts gathered at the Morningstar Air Field where Jonathan Starke - Support Team Member - Air Activities ran the courses. Many thanks to Jonathan and his assistants. This is all much appreciated by the Region.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme

Below are Scouts coming to grips with aeronautical maps and charts



hawequas news

Hawequas is back to life again! It has been wonderful to see Scouting adapting and getting going again with training and badge course and competitions – well done to all those who have embraced these changes! Patrols are also camping again.

Projects keep running at Hawequas from internal to external – We have been working on and negotiating with the Drakenstein Municipality to get all the plans of existing buildings passed. This has turned out to be a mammoth task, with lots of professional input, lots of meetings and research being done. The final two reports were a Fire Engineers report and a Civil Engineers report. Of interest for the Civil Engineer's report is that we had to have our water



Above: Life is returning to Hawequas

tested and it turns out that Hawequas has very good and pure water! To meet regulations we will have to have our water passing through UV light treatment, as opposed to a chemical treatment so this is great news! We are hoping that we have



Above: Conservation Badge Course scouts getting energy drink from one of the sponsors

now complied with all the required steps and will have approval soon, which means we can start with the completion of the Terrace Camp Ablution facility. Part of this approval process has necessitated that we remove some buildings that don't comply so one of the Wood Cabins and Tiger's Village will have to be demolished. We are planning to construct a Remembrance Garden on the site of Tigers Village. The smaller of the two buildings will remain as a Day Workers room.

The Fynbos Restoration Project is moving ahead, with tremendous work being done by John Wilson and our casual worker team. We need more donors to keep our fund ticking over. A week of clearing costs us R800 and a month R3200. All donations are most welcome.

hawequas news

A number of Rovers and Scouts have done service by doing very meaningful alien clearing. Each year the Conservation Badge Course also tackles areas – thank-you to all.

We have had a Maties' Honours student visit Hawequas to carry out research on Hakea where she introduced Hakea Gummosis (a fungus) which will hopefully result in the spread of the pathogens, reduce seed generation and ultimately kill the



plants. Dr Alan Wood visited Hawequas as well and he went up the Spruit River and introduced the Gall Rust Fungus to the Stinkbean flowers, which will now hopefully stop producing seed and make little galls instead, and eventually kill the Stinkbeans.

Unfortunately we also discovered a new invader to Hawequas - the Green Wattle (a serious invader in the Grassveld).

Above: Water station for Imbuko Big Five

MTB races are back after an absence of 18 months and we had the Imbuko Big Five MTB race come through twice in one day. It is a gruelling race involving 3500m of climbing and covered a distance of 75km. Next was the Val de Vie Stage Race which is a new race and the Cape Epic is in October.

What do these races do for Hawequas? The trails get maintained, we do receive some funds from some of the race and sometimes we have competitors staying at Hawequas.

Our **WiFi** has been dramatically improved after a High Site was set up by our ISP adjacent to Gum Tree Point. At the moment we are getting 13 to 14 Mbps for both down load and upload speeds for the price of 4 Mbps. Eventually as more clients sign up we will have free WiFi.

The toilet at the **Adirondack Shelter** is nearly ready and it has been quite a task to get all the components up to the shelter and put together. It is a very basic pit latrine. We ask that users keep it clean - our cleaning staff will not be going up the mountain on Mondays to clean it! Scouts SA COVID-19 protocols will need to be observed by users. Bookings for the use of the shelter open in October.

As always, Hawequas welcomes visitors.

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre Manager

cub pow wow

After a long break, the clouds broke and the sun came out. There were purple butterflies walking in to Almond Street Hall. Twenty three amazing purple Scouters met to revitalise their spirits and to get some amazing new ideas to take back to their Packs. The day started bright and early with smiles all around the room.

Good coffee and great people is the best way to start any training. Gauteng proceeded with the opening ceremony and singing of the National Anthem. Activities kicked off with some crazy dancing followed by learning and teabag making skills.

Pack Scouters from all over our country showed off their acting talents. Western Cape not only showcased their acting skills but their technical skills too. However, their sense of direction may require a bit more practice.

A few hiccups were experienced as well as a gremlin or two on the internet line but Western Cape kept their spirits high and improvised.

New ways of using recycling materials were shared and an inter Region challenge accepted to make the most children's activities and toys out of plastic bottle tops. These will be given to educational centres.

Our skills were put to the test but our Scouters prevailed with only a few minor cuts and burns.

Many laughs were had over games of cup tossing & Tsora Yematatu.

Our Chief Scout, Brendon Hausberger shared an inspirational message. Before closing for the day Pack Scouters had fun with face painting. New friendships were made and old ones caught up.

Our Scouters showed tremendous enthusiasm and spirit. Thank you Rochelle & Gauteng for a fantastic event.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the next Pow Wow which is being held in our beautiful Western Cape.

Charmaine de Kock - Pack Scouter 1st Table View



cub pow wow

My first Pow wow, absolutely amazing.

Very relevant information, at the right time, at the right place.

POW Wow 2021 - was great to actually have scouting gathering again - fun times- just wish it could've been with the whole country.

POW Wow is so different being virtual , still prefer face to face - miss pre-COVID Pow Wow.

An absolute must for all Pack Scouters. It's a day of fun and stress relief. We had much fun.

Pow Wow 2021 rocks. Absolutely wonderful to be with everybody.

I've attended my first Pow Wow ever and had a blast with my fellow purple blood family and learnt so much.

I am at Pow Wow for the first time and will return as often as I can. This has been an epic experience with amazing people. This Pow Wow will be my most memorable because I will be invested in the presence of my new mates.

Today has been an awesome day filled with loads of fun, friendship and lots of new ideas. Pack scouters are the best.

Pow Wow 2021 was an amazing event and glad to link up with other pack scouters. Great memorable moments and amazing learning skills. Hope to join again next time.

What ta fantastic day to spend with Pack Scouters.

Amazing how we can link up electronically and face to face in Regions. Loads of fun and laughter. Pack Scouters Rock.

I came stressed and the lovely Pow Wow spirit of fellow Akelas made my day....thanks for the positive vibe.

Had an absolute blast at Pow Wow. Definitely back next time.

Pow Wow is about reviving friendships, lots of fun, learning new skills and tools for improving our programmes. Wouldn't have missed it for anything.

A warm spring day dawned on Pow Wow Gauteng 2021 in the Western Cape. We got dressed into uniform while the birds were waking up and the rest of the world was in slumber dreaming of their Braai later in the day.

My first experience of Pow Wow 2021 - my first experience of Scouts - Amazing.

It was a real challenge to spend Pow Wow in such conditions. But it was fun and we were happy to see each other and learn new ideas and games.

My second Pow Wow and what an amazing bunch of people. It was so nice to see the old faces and meet new ones.

It was a lot of fun and i had some hearty laughs. Missed all this get togetherness so much. It was good to see all my Cubbing friends again. The WC Team, Nicky and Sharon, well done on the organising of the Western Cape Face to face.

scouting in schools



1st Aid Training is given to interns to ensure that they are able to transfer this skill to learners at school and more importantly add value to their CV.

scouting in schools



Almost 50 Scout Yeboneers or Interns are currently active in supporting 50 schools with more than 2500 Scouts. There are 47 Scout units and 34 Cub units. Scouting in Schools is a partnership between Scouts SA and the Western Cape government. This is aligned with the goal of Scouts SA bringing scouting to 1 million young people.

The COVID-19 level restrictions have limited many activities, however, as we move towards the end of the year lots of preparation is happening and more activities will be run.

Ahmad Solomon - SiS Project Leader

Left: The Scouting in Schools team and the Year beyond team preparing for the upcoming Scout Yeboneer Camp.

Below: Plastic Tide Turners Challenge was embraced by cubs and scouts in the Scouting in schools program. Mkhanyiseli Primary School from Nyanga decided to clean up around their school.



rover agm

On the 14 September 2021 the Western Cape Rovers held their AGM.

It was the first time a combined in-person and online meeting took place where we had it streamed to a zoom call for those unable to attend physically. The reason this was done was to allow the entire Region to participate regardless of their ability to travel to the event.

There were numerous discussion points brought at the AGM with a plan brought forward for 2022. Most notably were the training, rover support team and activities.

At the meeting Shanet Rutgers from the Table Bay Rovers was presented with the Baden-Powell Award by Ubayd Bapoo - RTC Rover Programme. This is the top award a Rover can achieve, comparable to the Scout Springbok Award and Cub Leaping Wolf.



We said farewell to Western Cape Rover Advisory Council (WCRAC) members Shanet and Tamara, as well as Anzio who is now pursuing a role in the Rover Support Team. We wish those who left happy WCRAC all the best and happy Roving.

The new WCRAC members are Robyn Oaker, Connor Winterous, Johann Harzon and Lorraine le Sueur who are all from different Crews giving good representation across the Crews.

Connor Winterous—WCRAC member PR/Marketing

Ed. Make sure you have a look at some of Shanet's activities described by her on the next page.

shanet's activities



One of the cub badge course is to teach First Aid. We were fortunate enough to receive funding to purchase a mini first aid bag for each cub and we went through every item found in the bag



SANCCOB – A seabird rescue centre needed volunteers as they needed help with the Cape Cormorant Rescue operation that occurred earlier this year. Rovers were called in to help



Our crew loves pancakes. We would regularly split into teams and make pancakes to enjoy at our rover socials



One of the best things I enjoy doing outside of work and Rovers is diving and exploring



Our Rover den needed some maintenance. We did lots of painting, welding and cleaning

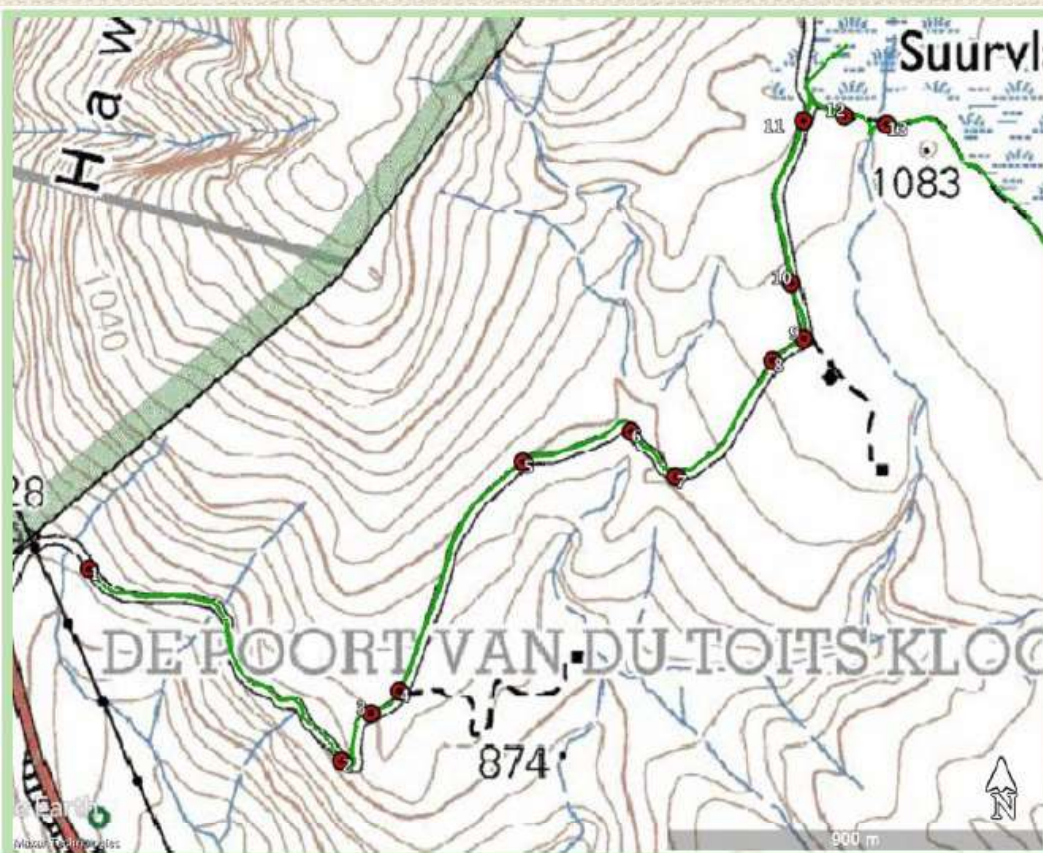


We hosted a Cub Knotting Night and invited our District Pack Scouters to join their senior cubs to make some take home knotting boards

adventurous springbok hike

I had the immense privilege of leading a three day expedition spanning 30km through the Witteberg and on to Bainskloof. These mountains, situated east of Wellington, sported large cliffs, steep slopes, and our famous mountain Fynbos, making the whole excursion a treat for the eyes.

The route I had set out began on Du Toitskloof pass, where our party of five adventurers set off in to the mountain via the Telkom access road. Our first point of interest was the Kromrivier Dome, and the journey there took us through fields of boulders, sprawled like a harvest of pumpkins up the slopes, and up the winding Kromrivier, all the way to the Dome. Then our party bid the dome farewell, and headed into the Witteberg, to spend an uncomfortable night amongst the reeds on a little brook in a secluded valley.



The second day's objective was simple: get up to the top of Slanghoekpiek (1696m), and down the other side safely. However, in practice, achieving this was quite a challenging task. The slope required us to be as nimble as mountain goats. We became envious of the hares we saw scampering over boulders, hardly perceiving them as obstacles.

The going was tough, but the tough prevailed and the whole party made it up Grassy Dome, up Slanghoekpiek, and down the other side to the Witrivier, where the land flattened out into a rather more favourable camping ground.

With the challenging walk completed, we took a leisurely stroll towards civilization along the old Limietberg hiking trail. The going was almost entirely flat, and quite peaceful, the only reminder of the challenge of the previous day being aching legs and the mountains that loomed behind us.

Looking back, I would seize the opportunity to repeat this hike in a heartbeat; though at the time, I swore I would never do it again. I would recommend the route to those with a decent level of fitness and an adventurous spirit.

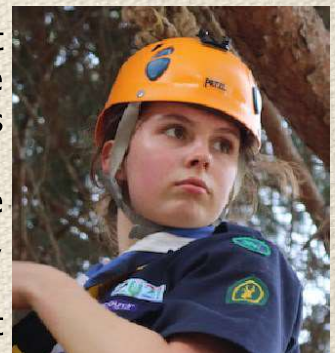
Kerryn Bosch - Springbok Scout and ATS 1st Muizenberg

adventurous springbok hike

LOG

	Time	Bearing (True)	Interval Distance (m)	Total distance (km)	Observation
1	09h13	161°	0	0	We started at the gate on Telkom Rd off Du Toitskloof Pass
2	09h28	005°	853	0.8	3 steenbok sighted, crossing our path approx. 10 meters ahead of us, moving in a southerly direction.
3	09h34	052°	196	1.0	The veld is about knee height, and very dense to either side of the road. Clear skies and a gentle breeze found us in good spirits.
4	09h35	016°	90	1.1	We passed a gravel turn off to a weather station.
5	09h46	089°	637	1.7	The vegetation is lower, not quite knee high, but very dense and quite green. There are a few dead proteas, scattered in between conebushes, restios and various geophytes
6	09h49	126°	237	2.0	A stream flows under the road, tucked away under large conebushes with lush leaves
7	09h51	136°	99	2.1	A stern-faced man in a Bakkie drove past us, overtaking us.
8	10h00	071°	275	2.3	We needed to stop briefly to sort out a nosebleed.
9	10h02	015°	94	2.4	The vegetation is quite low and dotted with dead shrubbery, there is a large cage structure down a short pathway, possibly a greenhouse.
10	10h08	345	313	2.7	In the distance, Kromrivier Dome is visible, with a touch of cloud above it due to the orographic winds
11	10h15	056°	312	3.1	The turn off onto the Boland trail was obscured by plants, so the trail we turned onto was a jeep track headed in the same direction as the road. We turned around and found the path after realizing that we were in fact headed in the wrong direction
12	10h24	127°	155	3.5	The Suurvlaakte ahead is a marshy area with no visible water aside from a river crossing the path
13	10h29	095°	199	3.7	There was a rudimentary bridge made of poles which spanned about 5 meters over the river, which we crossed into Suurvlaakte area

Ed. Much planning is undertaken by the Springbok Scout before setting off on such a hike. After completion of the Springbok Expedition, the Scout has to write up a log. Above is the first page of Kerry's log that records the start of the hike. There are many other aspects that need to be covered in the log such as permissions, transport arrangements, budgets, consent forms, contents of a first aid kit, drawings, etc. Congratulations to Kerry for planning and executing a most challenging route.



ship quartermaster course

On the weekend of 4-5 September 2021, 13 Scouts eagerly descended upon the Sea Scout Base to see what the Ship Quartermaster Interest Badge Course had in store for them.

Water Activities Western Cape launched a pilot Ship Quartermaster badge course to experiment whether the course was practical to host, since this was the first year that the course has ever run. The motivating factor to launch the course was because the badge requirements would ideally complement the current training course offering.

The course presented the following topics to the Scouts over the two days: aspects of rope handling, belaying rope properly, blocks and blocks and tackles, anchors and anchoring, mooring boats, boat stability factors, handling and storing of flammable materials, technical rigging of sailing and pulling dinghies and several other topics pertaining to the management and care of boating equipment.



Thanks to Robert Schmid for offering his time as an instructor and to Jim Cairns for flawlessly providing the course administration service. The success of the course was measured by the theory and practical evaluations, which yielded high standards among the Scouts who achieved a 100% success rate. I look forward to seeing boats rigged according to the technical detail that was learnt and an improvement in boating equipment care and maintenance in the near future.

Craig Burchell-Burger - RC Water Activities



Saldanha dinghies rigged for sailing. Scouts learnt the intricate technicalities to rigging a sailing dinghy.

turning the tide on plastic



The 1st Durbanville scout group turned the tide on plastic at the Eerstestein Nature Reserve at Blaauwberg beach when all their Scouts, Cubs and Meerkats participated in International Beach Clean-Up Day on 18 September 2021.

1st Durbanville is committed to The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, a global initiative which has been adopted by the World Scout Organization as an integral component of its Earth Tribe Initiative.

Over the past few months we have held a number of Tide Turners Plastic Challenge programmes aimed at developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes in our Scouts which are essential for supporting this initiative.

Our first programme introduced the Scouts to creative ways of using packaging waste and they made several recycled items from plastic refuse. The Scouts were required to complete a plastic audit as well as a self-assessment form as regards individual plastic usage. On another occasion, each of the scout patrols painted large anti-plastic posters which were displayed at various venues.

The programme culminated in the Saturday beach clean-up at Eerstestein Nature Reserve to which the cubs and Meerkats were invited.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



1st muizenberg meerkats

The 1st Muizenberg Meerkats have been busy with many activities including:

- Making a simple bird feeder and planting some vegetable seeds.
- Going on a treasure hunt and finding a variety of objects that provided clues as to what to pack when going on a hike.
- Making their own Tie Dye shirts to wear on outings.
- Going on a 4.8km hike to the beach with a rucksack packed with essentials, getting some ice cream, and picnicking at the beach before heading back.
- Following a treasure map in order to find components to make a compass and learning what a compass is and how it works.
- Making 61 Jars of Hope which were donated along with other items to Where Rainbows Meet.



Marihett Bredenkamp - Den Scouter 1st Muizenberg



1st muizenberg meerkaats



1st claremont meerkats

1st Claremont Meerkats went on a Treasure Hunt in Arderne Gardens at the end of July. They set off in Burrows with maps and compasses to follow sound clues – waterfalls, hadedas, barking dogs and of course frogs! Finding the Treasure at a Champion Tree, racing to base and enjoying a picnic together before the rain came made for a memorable morning out. We were very fortunate thereafter to arrange an evening walk in Keurboom Park with renowned UCT frog expert, Tania Morkel. Decked out in wellies and head torches, followed by their parents, the intrepid Meerkats



burrowed in the muddy streams and caught adult (but small) frogs. They learnt how to examine their gender and the importance of conserving frogs in our area. Some Meerkats just revelled in the experience of running in the park at night. Our New Pups and their parents are hooked on Scouting now.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter



1st claremont meerkats



With the Olympics all around us, 1st Claremont Meerkats spent August and September learning all about what it means to be Proudly South African, one of the Challenge Badges on the Meerkat Trail. One of ADS Lucy du Toit's innovative programmes involved looking at the emblems and animals on our money. We discovered all sorts of hidden secrets such as a San picture if you wrap a note round.

The culmination was a meeting of Keep Fit exercises under the

watchful eye of our parents and then a Grand Soccer Tournament. We started with the National Anthem and then out came the goals and flags and oranges for interval.

Although not soccer experts, we whittled the rules applicable to five-year olds down to "No pushing and stay in the lines with a free kick otherwise". Two matches were played with much cheering on the benches. There were lots of free kicks for going out the lines! Everyone went home happy with their chocolate medals.



Judith Bishop - Den Scouter



service to diep river

2nd Bergvliet is fortunate enough to be located in an area with many greenbelts and can be regularly found running around the neighbourhood on a Friday evening doing activities along the local river and in the open spaces.

As part of the Plastic Tide Turner Challenge, we have been focusing on picking up litter and taking it to recycling depots. We noticed that litter in the street is washed into the storm water drains and which feeds into the river. We traced the course of the river and found that it travels all the way from us down to Zandvlei and then in to the sea.

We love sailing at Zandvlei and often arrange service projects to do clean-ups there. It just made sense to us to rather pick the litter up before it makes its way into the river system.

And so an idea was hatched to see if we could clean up the whole way along the Diep River, from source to sea. When we were researching the river course, we stumbled on a "Source to Sea" project that is being worked on in partnership with the City of Cape Town.

We contacted the City of Cape Town to ask if there was any way we could assist. We told them how we have felt the direct impact of an unhealthy river system as our



service to diep rivver

beloved vlei is closed due to contaminated water, and of our ambitious plan to do clean ups all the way from our hall to the vlei.

We were contacted by Fay Howa for Recreation and Parks. Fay and her team are currently busy with a restoration project along the Doordrift greenbelt, a section of the Diep River very close to our hall.

Fay patiently explained about why they had to remove the Black Alder trees which are associated with nitrogen-fixing bacteria which is bad for the Fynbos.

We learnt about how the green belt is a green corridor and goes all the way to the mountain, and if we restore the plant life that belongs there, we could attract all sorts of wildlife back into the area from the mountain. We got to plant Restios and Rain Daisies and filled a big bag with litter.



As Scouts, we strive to make the world a better place. We are very thankful to be guided on how to make a positive impact on an area that is so close to us and that we can be part of this amazing transition. We are committed to helping rejuvenate from source to sea, and look forward to many more projects along the water ways.

If Scouts do their service projects along this river, record which area they have worked on, and we collate the data, we are sure we can clean along the entire length of the Diep River to Zandvlei. We welcome all Scouts to be part of this project.

Judy Willemse - Troop Scouter 2nd Bergvliet

gordon shield

Despite the challenging circumstances Scouting has faced, the Gordon Shield camping competition for 2021 took place over the weekend of 11-12 September 2021. Traditionally held at Hawequas, this year it was decided to hold the competition at two separate locations, one at Hawequas in the North and one at the Glencairn Rotary Campsite in the South. This novel decision was taken in an effort to accommodate troops from across the province while still maintaining the Scouts SA Covid protocol at the time limiting numbers to 100 people per event. This allowed us to include all 29 troops from across the province that applied to take part in the competition.

In tribute to the fact that space travel and exploration is undergoing a resurgence in popularity and accessibility, the competition theme was "Race to Space".

Congratulations to all scouts for participating with enthusiasm and spirit, despite the "light" sprinkle of rain on Sunday morning! Well done to 6th Rondebosch for taking home the trophy.

A huge thanks to the judges at both sites for helping to run a successful competition for all scouts under unique circumstances. A special thanks to Jason Raad for leading the southern half of the competition at Glencairn.

It was great seeing scouts back in action doing what they do best and I look forward to seeing competitions and courses continue to carry on the legacy of Scouting.

Michael Ketterer - Gordon Shield Chief Judge



gordon shield



gordon shield



gordon shield

1	6th Rondebosch	358	19	1st Belvedere	259
2	2nd Bergvliet	351	20	1st Naruna Constantia	249
3	1st Fish Hoek Rangers	348	21	1st Meadowridge	242
4	2nd Fish Hoek	331	22	1st Fish Hoek Guides	230
5	1st Durbanville	330	23	1st Fish Hoek	214
6	2nd Hout Bay	327	24	1st Monte Vista	211
7	2nd Kenridge	321	25	1st Somerset West	204
8	3rd Pinelands	317	26	1st Gordon's Bay	203
9	1st Bergvliet	314	27	2nd Rondebosch	194
10	1st Muizenberg	310	28	1st Stellenbosch	183
11	1st Claremont	309	29	1st Paarl	122
12	1st Hermanus	298			
13	1st Pinelands	296			
14	2nd Somerset West	292			
14	9/16 Cape Town	292			
16	2nd Plumstead	289			
17	1st Strand	288			
18	DK Sea Scouts	281			



conservation at hawequas

The Scoutcraft Conservation badge course was recently run at Hawequas. 44 Scouts arrived on what must have been one of the windiest days ever at Hawequas. The first job was to pitch tents on the field. The larger the tent the more likely it was to get blown down until it was decided to pitch them in a less windy spot. Much was learnt by all.



The course then set off up the Spruit River and was introduced to stands of alien Black Wattle which were tackled. Scouts learnt how to cut these plants as low as possible being 1cm above the ground and adults then applied herbicide to stop the hacked plant from resprouting. Scouts also tackled Pine and Hakea on the lower slopes just west of Gum Tree Point. There is a limited time that can be spent on hacking aliens because it can be quite tiring.

Scouts learnt how to make soup in a hay box, the dangers of pollution and erosion, common alien plants at Hawequas and which appliances use a lot of electricity and which don't. Scouts were also introduced to iNaturalist which is the app that is for the City Nature Challenge. A documentary (2019) on Climate Change narrated by David Attenborough was shown which highlighted the requirement for change now and how it is not too late.

Many thanks to Sai Ehrhardt, Professor Tony Rebelo, Kuba Miszewski, John Wilson, Aaron Filmlalter, Jonathan Webb, Samantha Rouse, Charles Rouse and James Stewart for assisting at the course.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme



conservation at hawequias



scouts brave the cold

The cold weather was not a deterrent to the 1st Durbanville scouts on a recent chilly Saturday morning when they took to the water at Fairmont High School to earn the Scoutcraft Swimming badge.

In order to earn this badge, scouts have to swim 100 metres in any overarm or crawl style. They also have to swim 50 metres in clothes and remove their topmost layer of clothing in the water whilst keeping their feet off the bottom of the pool. Thereafter, they swim 50 metres on the breast and 50 metres on the back and then swim a further 50 metres in any style, making 150 metres in all.



In addition, a scout participating in the swimming badge needs to execute several safety and life saving techniques which include swimming 10 metres whilst carrying a shirt in between the teeth or in his or her hands and swinging one end of the shirt into the hands of a “drowning” person. The scout needs to tow the “drowning” person to the shore.

The final three requirements include demonstrating, by means of “clothing inflation”, a method of remaining afloat for three minutes; executing a reasonable dive into the water from the side of the pool; and, finally, diving from the surface of the water to recover with both hands an object from the bottom of the pool. The water is not to be more than 2 metres deep.

All the scouts who participated were successful in earning this important badge.

Ursula Wilbraham—1st Durbanville Committee Member



orienteering competition

The 2021 competition took on a new style of orienteering called metrogaïne. Rogaine is a sport of long-distance cross-country navigation, involving both route planning and navigation between checkpoints using a variety of map types. Metrogaïne is rogaine in an urban area. This year's competition was run through the suburb of Pinelands and the course area was large enough to ensure that all teams had to make strategic route decisions as it was impossible to collect all the controls within the time limit.



The competition ranged from Scouts who have competed for the last few years to complete novices working with their first map. It was wonderful to see a sea of Scouts in purple running around Pinelands. Scores varied greatly as different controls were rated 10-50 points each and there was negative marking for wrong answers. This year 1st Bergvliet convincingly walked away with the 1st place overall trophy and the junior trophy. 2nd Fish Hoek won the senior trophy with only 10 points between first and second. Well done to all the Scouts who competed!

Special thanks to the adult volunteers who make this competition possible, to Mark Vernon for planning the route and to PENOC for kindly allowing us to use their world standard maps! For any Scouts who loved this competition and would like to orienteer more regularly I recommend checking out the events put on by PENOC (www.penoc.org.za)

Laura Troost - Orienteering Chief Judge



hannelore hauser bequest

The story of the Scout-owned yacht Rotary Scout reads like a good book with many chapters.

Chapter One started way back in 1987 when a Tosca 36 sailing boat hull was kindly donated to the South African Sea Scouts by the Rotary Club of Bellville.

The next chapter was a long and detailed one when a team of dedicated volunteers under the leadership of Neville Coxon completed the boat over a period of seven years into the glorious sea-going vessel that it is today.

Chapter Three saw the launch of Rotary Scout in 1992 and the start of over thirty years of introducing South African Scouts to keelboat sailing, pleasure sailing in False Bay and Table Bay, as well as entries into many competitive races and events.

The Rotary Scout programme management teams have over the years trained many enthusiastic Scout sailors, even resulting in several Scouts embarking on maritime careers after cutting their teeth on Rotary Scout.

Many really successful and amazing chapters could be written about the four Cape to Rio Races and five St Helena Island Races that Rotary Scout has competed in, giving her crew members a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The yacht has had the youngest crew ever, to participate in these races on several occasions. The local races have



included Mykonos (Langebaan), Mossel Bay, Vasco (Durban) and many club races at False Bay Yacht Club and the Royal Cape Yacht Club.

A less glamorous but essential chapter includes that of looking after and maintaining the yacht. A small team of dedicated volunteers have kept the yacht in really good sailing

condition over the years. The current team comprises Brian Goemans, Rory Rochat, Grant Chapman and Daniel Skriker. In addition to a brand new engine being installed in 2019, the ongoing programme of complying with the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) requirements is both a time-consuming and expensive exercise, as was getting sponsorships for a mooring for the yacht over the years, replacing her sails and other equipment and obtaining important items like the Sailor satellite device for ocean crossings.

hannelore hauser bequest



Fundraising for Rotary Scout has included company sponsorships, donations, chartering of the yacht to sailing schools, charging course fees for Scouts to get sailing qualifications such as Competent Crew, and crew fees for participating in various races. The reality, however, is that it's an ongoing challenge to raise sufficient funding to sustain the Rotary Scout programme, especially under the prolonged lockdown circumstances that have

resulted from the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic.

A recent bequest (donation) from a deceased estate has, however, breathed new life into the Rotary Scout programme as part of a new chapter. This generous financial contribution from the late Hannelore Hauser whose late sons were once Scouts in 16th Cape Town has facilitated the purchase of a permanent mooring at Royal Cape Yacht Club. Funding from the bequest is also being used for the ongoing maintenance of Rotary Scout, enabling her to meet the strict requirements of SAMSA which have always been considered to be of good value for the safety of Scouts on board the yacht. The bequethed funds will also allow Scouts SA to prepare for more sailing adventures going forward in the future.

This generous bequest chapter is a very important one for the Rotary Scout programme. It very fortunately came at a critical time during the pandemic lockdown and has enabled the management team to be able to afford to continue with the ongoing maintenance of Rotary Scout at a time when there is very limited funding available from other sources. It also emphasises the importance and value that such bequests can add to the success and survival of the various Scouting programmes.

There will hopefully be many more interesting chapters written on the Rotary Scout programme that have now been made possible through Hannelore Hauser's generous bequest. Hannelore and her sons will be remembered on a plaque on the new mooring at the Royal Cape Yacht Club as well as on a plaque above the chart table inside the saloon of Rotary Scout.

Should you wish to donate or make a bequest in your will to the Rotary Scout programme, like Hannelore so kindly did for the Rotary Scout programme, please contact the Rotary Scout management team at RotaryScout1992@gmail.com or visit <https://www.scouts.org.za/about-us/become-a-friend-of-scouting/legacies/> - Rotary Scout must be nominated as the beneficiary. Bequests such as these leave a great legacy for generations to come.

Rory Rochat - Rotary Scout Management Team

priceless items in the museum

Ribbons from Baden-Powell's uniform

After BP's death on 8 January 1941 at their home in Kenya, Olave, BP's wife, was burdened with many official duties and after these were finalised, she and her nephew Christian went on a 3-month tour of Kenya, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, Uganda and the Belgian Congo. Sadly, after her return to Kenya, depression set in and she decided to return to England.

Her return journey brought her to South Africa in 1942 where she did some touring and attended a few engagements. Whilst here Olave had the actual ribbons that BP wore to the 1936 South African Jamboree framed and presented them to the SA Scout Headquarters. They are now securely locked away in the safe at the Scout Museum.

The inscription on the frame reads:

"I am sending you this frame, in case you may like to keep it in your Office of the Scouts of the Union, as a memento of the Beloved Chief.

These medal ribbons are off the Scout shirt that he wore at your South African Jamboree at East London in 1936.



As I am only now just passing through South Africa on tour, I have no lists with me, so cannot tell you accurately which is which.

But they include the G.C.M.G. (Knight Grand Cross - Order of St Michael and St George), K.C.V.O. (Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order), K.C.B. (Knight Commander Order of the Bath), Order of St John of Jerusalem, the Ashanti Campaign, Matabeleland, South African War, the Coronation (1910) Jubilee, Coronation, and awards from Chile, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Denmark, France, Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia, Holland, Sweden, etc. though I am afraid that

priceless items in the museum

the ribbon of the highest award he received - the O.M. (Order of Merit) - is missing here.

As you know, he cared personally for none of these things, only receiving them humbly and gratefully from the different nations, counting them as recognition of what Scouting meant for their boy-hood, and what it could and would achieve for their people.

Johannesburg: June 1942"

Ofave Baden-Powell.

Stuart Ravenscroft - The Archivist, Scout Museum and Heritage Centre

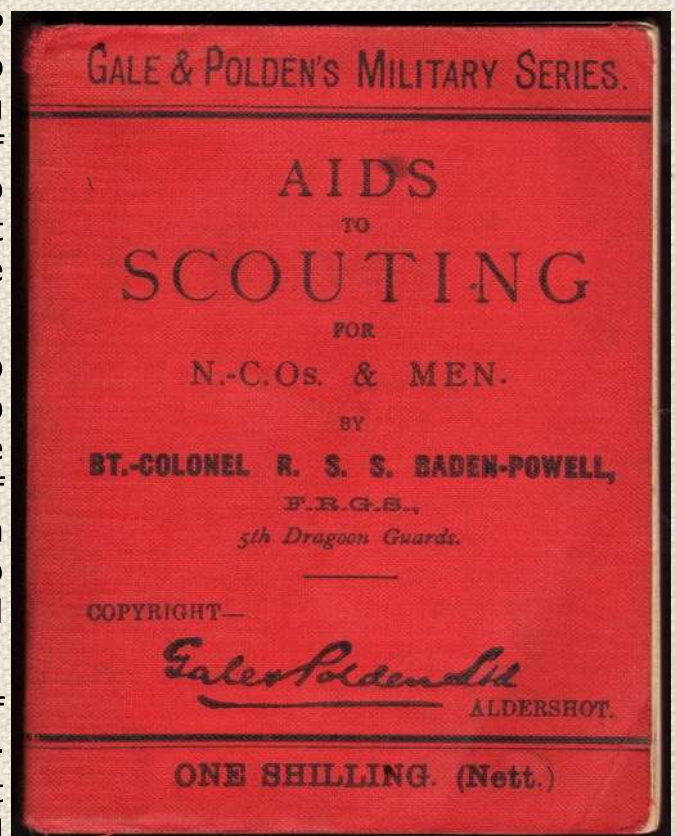
Ed: Can any military historians identify these ribbons?

pricey old book in the museum

In 1899 while serving in the Boer War, BP wrote his sixth military book, *Aids to Scouting*. It was a non-typical training manual filled with personal stories of intrigue and even games. Its goal was to encourage the development of light reconnaissance scouting skills within the British Army.

This book was however, eagerly taken up by teachers and youth groups to help organize outdoor activities and sport. The book contains sections on the characters of a scout, as well as practical advice on observation, stealth/camouflage, map reading, sketching, tracking, reporting and care of horses.

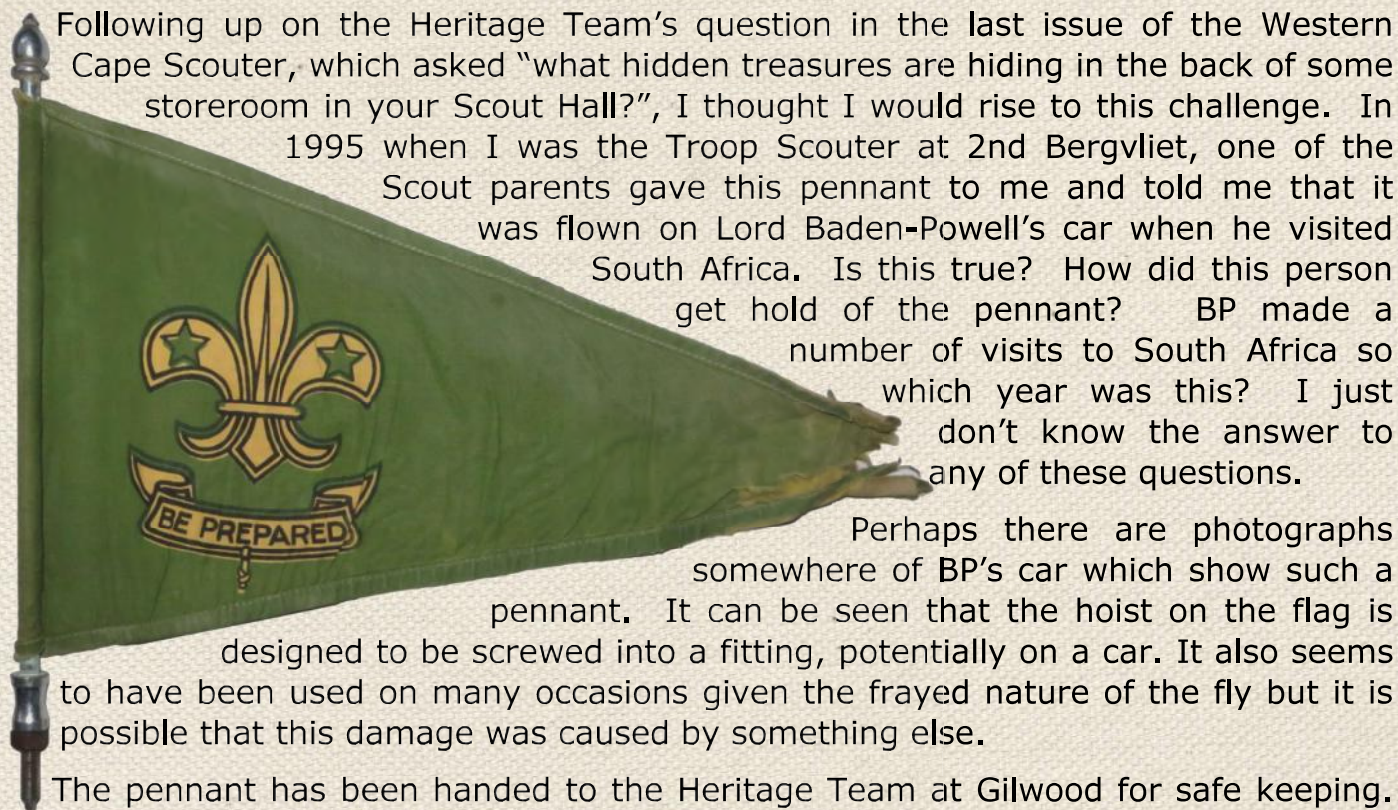
BP eventually embraced the idea of adapting this book into a new youth-oriented book, *Scouting for Boys* (1908). It was this follow-on book that firmly launched the international Boy Scouts movement.



In the Scout Museum safe we have two of these books, one dated and one undated. Generally, an undated version is the First Edition and then reprints reflect the date when they were reprinted. Your Archivist feels that we are sitting on an extensive Scouting library, possibly the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Stuart Ravenscroft - The Archivist, Scout Museum and Heritage Centre

pennant flown on bp's car?



Following up on the Heritage Team's question in the last issue of the Western Cape Scouter, which asked "what hidden treasures are hiding in the back of some storeroom in your Scout Hall?", I thought I would rise to this challenge. In 1995 when I was the Troop Scouter at 2nd Bergvliet, one of the Scout parents gave this pennant to me and told me that it was flown on Lord Baden-Powell's car when he visited South Africa. Is this true? How did this person get hold of the pennant? BP made a number of visits to South Africa so which year was this? I just don't know the answer to any of these questions.

Perhaps there are photographs somewhere of BP's car which show such a pennant. It can be seen that the hoist on the flag is designed to be screwed into a fitting, potentially on a car. It also seems to have been used on many occasions given the frayed nature of the fly but it is possible that this damage was caused by something else.

The pennant has been handed to the Heritage Team at Gilwood for safe keeping. Perhaps the Heritage Team will be able to fill in the history of this pennant.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme

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